

Claims

1. A method for providing access to personal information, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 receiving, by an electronic device, a request for access to the personal information, the request originating from an entity external to the electronic device;
providing the external entity with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information existing within a personal database also existing external to the electronic device.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the external entity with the cryptographically protected access information comprises the step of providing the external entity with a token, the token comprising information taken from the group consisting of:
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 - an identification label for an element within the database,
 - a type of action to be performed on the database,
 - an identity of a requesting party,
 - a validity period, and
 - 20 • a digital signature or message authentication code that certifies the token's authenticity and integrity.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is controlled by a user of the electronic device.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is controlled by an owner of the personal information.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the database and the electronic device is controlled
30 by an owner of the personal information.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the external entity with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information comprises the step of providing the external entity with a token allowing the entity to read the personal information.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the external entity with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information comprises the step of providing the external entity with a token allowing the entity to write personal information into the database.

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8. A method for providing access to personal information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, on an electronic device, a request for the personal information, the request originating from an entity external to the electronic device;

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providing a personal database, external to the electronic device, with cryptographically protected access information instructing the database to forward the personal information to the external entity.

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9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of providing the personal database with the cryptographically protected access information comprises the step of providing the database with a token, the token comprising information taken from the group consisting of:

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- an identification label for an element within the database,
- a type of action to be performed on the database,
- an identity of a requesting party,
- a validity period, and
- a digital signature or message authentication code that certifies the token's authenticity and integrity.

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10. The method of claim 8 wherein the database is controlled by a user of the electronic device.
- 5 11. The method of claim 8 wherein the database is controlled by an owner of the personal information.
12. The method of claim 8 wherein the database and the electronic device is controlled by an owner of the personal information.
- 10 13. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of providing the database with cryptographically protected access information comprises the step of providing the database with a token allowing the external entity to read the personal information.
- 15 14. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of providing the database with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information comprises the step of providing the database with a token allowing the entity to write personal information into the database.
- 20 15. An electronic device comprising:
an authorization manager receiving a request for the personal information, the request originating from an entity external to the electronic device and verifying the requestor of the personal information as legitimate; and
a token generator, providing either an external database or the external entity with cryptographically protected access information instructing the database to
25 forward the personal information to the external entity.
- 30 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the cryptographically protected access information comprises a token comprising information taken from the group consisting of:
- an identification label for an element within the database,
 - a type of action to be performed on the database,

- an identity of a requesting party,
- a validity period, and
- a digital signature or message authentication code that certifies the token's authenticity and integrity.

5 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the database is controlled by a user of the electronic device.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the database is controlled by an owner of the personal information.